



Senator Osten, Senator Formica, Representative Walker, Representative Ziobron, and Members of the Committee, thank you for hearing my testimony today on the important investments through the Department of Housing to support efforts to end homelessness in CT.

My name is Eric Farrington, and I am the Executive Assistant for Pacific House formerly known as Shelter for the Homeless in Stamford. Our agency understands how important maintaining current and increasing future resources from DOH and other funding sources impact our community. Connecticut is making progress to end homelessness – saving lives and saving public dollars. Preserving state investments will allow us to maintain progress. The term affordable housing in Stamford is far reaching for many of our current residents living at or below the poverty level. Supportive Housing continues to be the most effective housing model to assist people experiencing chronic homelessness and is proven to cut public system cost by up to 70%. We have just completed a 16 unit deeply affordable housing project in Stamford and have issued rental agreements to several formerly homeless individuals, which was made possible from DOH funding. Although, great efforts have been made throughout the state in addressing chronic homelessness our next approaching threat is youth homelessness. We have noticed an increased number of young adults between the age 18 to 24 seeking shelter at our facility, due to aging out of foster care, prison release, and domestic family housing issues. Homeless young adults require additional services and funding to address their growing needs to adulthood. DOH funding has allowed our agency to create a new young adult program, which houses this age group separately within our emergency shelter. The Homeless Youth line item: Youth outreach services, crisis housing for youth, and housing services and supports are essential services to transition youth from crisis to stability. Cuts to these critically important services, could mean an increase in unsheltered, high-need homelessness and impose new costs on our communities.

Thank you for hearing my testimony and thank you for your support in maintaining funding for FY 18 and FY 19.

Sincerely,

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